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EMPLOYEES' NEWS BULLETIN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Personnel

Division of Personnel Relations and Safety

RECEIVED

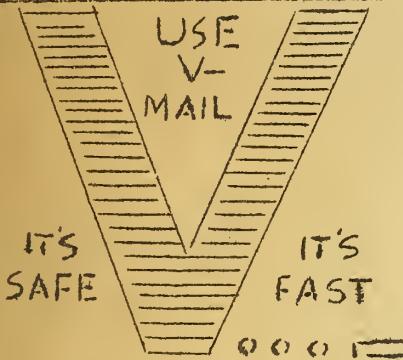
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A campaign has been started to promote the further use of V-mail as the correspondence medium for our men and women overseas. Since the V-mail service was inaugurated June 15, 1942, over 200,000,000 V-mail letters have been delivered in all parts of the world. Every month the volume of V-mail gains momentum. But in spite of the fact that V-mail has shown a continued and large increase in volume, the gain has not been in ratio to expansion of our overseas personnel. As a consequence it is necessary to achieve a 20 to 30 percent increase in V-mail use within the next three months.

There are many factors to consider when you write a V-letter rather than a regular size letter. The best point to emphasize at the present time is the safety feature of V-mail. After one year and seven months of service, not one V-mail letter has been lost. Another thing to remember is that a V-mail letter weighs 1/140 as much as the standard letter, and its use effects a saving of 98% in cargo space. Since the institution of the service, there has been a saving of 4,964,286 cargo pounds affected by the use of V-mail. A good example of the cargo space saving feature of V-mail is as follows:

When V-mail is used, TWO transport planes can do the work
(See V-mail on next page)

CAFETERIA MAY BE OPEN IN EVENING

EMPLOYEES ARE HONORED

The Federal Employees' Recreation Council will sponsor a dance to be given in your honor on Monday, February 21, at 9:00 p.m. in Turner's Arena, 14th and W Street, N.W. The Army Air Forces orchestra, one of the best bands in the country, will provide the music. This dance is being given in appreciation of the cooperation given by Government employees in the 4th War Loan Drive. Admission is free but tickets will be required. A limited number of tickets will be available for Department employees in Room 528. The early bird catches the ticket.

BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION

The Department of Agriculture Beneficial Association has limited funds available for first deed of trust loans to employees on their homes. Only conservative loans are accepted. The initial interest rate of 4 1/2% is reduced to 4% when loan is reduced 25%. Interest is paid at the Southwest Branch of the McLachlen Banking Corporation.

Interested employees may secure loan applications from Mr. H. E. Allanson, Chairman, Investment Committee, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md.; telephone Warfield 4400, ext. 165.

EX-SERVICE PEOPLE PLEASE NOTE

Men and women returned to work after discharge from the military service, can secure forms requesting mustering-out pay from the Plans and Operations Information Booth in the Patio, Administration Bldg. The forms may also be obtained from Commander N. A. Pagnotta (Ext. 4127) and Adjutant Jack Selby (Ext. 4127) of American Legion Post 36.

HOT MEALS WILL BE SERVED
IF HELP IS AVAILABLE

The Welfare Association in cooperation with the Office of Personnel, is considering the possibility of serving evening meals in the Department Cafeteria. According to plans which have been presented, the 5th Wing Cafeteria will be open from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, effective March 1. The cafeteria will serve Department of Agriculture employees and Graduate School students.

The whole plan hinges on the success attained in securing sufficient help to operate the cafeteria facilities. The Welfare Association has found that the service could not be made available unless additional help is secured.



It has been suggested that some help could be gained directly from employees of the Department. For example, employees would have the opportunity of supplementing their present income by working in the cafeteria immediately after the close of business in the afternoon for a period of approximately three hours. This also offers a chance for employees to be of a distinct service to the Department in its efforts to furnish reasonable and nutritious food to those who otherwise might have difficulty in securing such food for their evening meal.

If you are interested, apply in Room 5435 of the South Bldg. Further information regarding this employment may be
(See Cafeteria on Next Page)



WRITERS!!

An interesting organization available for you people with a writing "gift" is the Professional Writer's Club of Washington. Persons eligible for membership include those who have demonstrated an active interest in the study of creative writing in the past three years, or who are already engaged in some form of writing full-time or part-time.

Meetings are held on the second Friday evening of each month—except July, August, and September, in the Administration Building of the YWCA, 17th and K Streets, N.W. At these meetings interesting and helpful talks are given by outstanding speakers and persons high in the writing profession.

If you're interested in the Club, cable the President, Vivian Bridge, 705 Eighteenth St., N.W. (Ex. 4700), or the Membership Chairman, Gwendolin Taylor, 514 19th St., N.W. Na. 2483.

APARTMENT TO SHARE

Congenial young girl (18-25) wants to share nicely furnished 3 room, private bath apartment; convenient transportation downtown. Completely furnished, \$27.50 per month (including gas, heat and lights). Call Miss Hockaday, Ext. 5082 between 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., or DE. 7911 after 6 p.m.

CAFETERIA

(continued from first page) obtained by calling the Welfare Office, Ext. 5704 or the Division of Personnel Relations and Safety, Ext. 3106.

Remember that if you decide to apply, you should be willing to agree to work steadily in order that the management may depend upon your services. At any rate, here's your chance for a little extra money and a little extra service. The line forms to the right and we don't mean in front of the counter.

Wants riders:

Robert L. Burch, Presidential Gardens, Ext. 2275

STATES CORNER

The Iowa State Society has scheduled its February Dance on February 19 at the Shoreham Hotel. There will be door prizes, dancing from 10 'til, and a general good time. The dance is informal. Contact Gertrude M. Louis for details at 426 Roosevelt Hotel, DE 0800.

People from Massachusetts had fun at a Pre-Valentine Dance on Friday, February 11 at the Wardman Park. Look for the announcement of the March Dance. Call Mrs. Anne McDermott for information about membership at NO 7479, or write to 1499 Irving St., N.W.

V-MAIL

(continued from first page)
of 100 similar planes carrying the same number of standard and air mail letters.

The longer this war continues the greater is the importance of getting mail safely and quickly to our men and women overseas. The Government has specifically requested that every one who has relatives or loved ones overseas continue to write them the letters which are so vital in sustaining morale. However, the Government wants to discourage the writing of long, heavy, bulky letters which take up vital cargo space.

V-mail letters are as personal and confidential as any other kind, for every letter leaving this country in wartime is opened and read by the censor. V-mail letters are always delivered in sealed envelopes. V-mail has definite priority in handling by the Army and Navy Postal Departments over all other types of personal mail. V-mail is never left behind.

Remember some of these things when you sit down to write a letter to someone overseas. If you have a lot to say, write two letters. But you're doing a favor for yourself, the country's war effort, and the person "over there" by writing the V-mail way.

CHORAL GUILD

The Department of Agriculture Choral Guild is springing to the fore in musical circles with two concerts scheduled for the last of February. On Feb. 20, the group will sing at the YMCA; and will entertain on Feb 27 at the YWCA. These concerts will mark the first appearance of the male quartette, composed of Victor R. Fuchs, tenor, and Rolla P. Currie, bass, of this Department, and Mr. Fred and Mr. McAdams of other agencies. All employees of the Department are invited to attend these performances.

Incidentally, Dr. Bauer will wield the baton at the concert of the Victory Symphony Orchestra this evening in the Shoreham Hotel.

SIXTEEN NEW MEMBERS were initiated into the Agriculture American Legion Post No. 36 on February 8, 1944. These new people now raise the membership quota of the Post as set in the District of Columbia to 13% of its quota. The post presented one of its noted entertainments at the Walter Reed Hospital February 5. Lilian Williams and the ladies of the Auxiliary prepared the cookies enjoyed by the gathering.

CAR POOL

Want rotators:
E. R. Draheim, 4622 1st St. S., Arlington, Va., Ext. 5291.

Alvin S. Tostlebe, 4111 Location St., N.W., Ext. 2645
Mrs. Eunice Evans, 2802 Shepherd St., Mr. Ranier, Md., Ext. 2675

Want rides:
Miss Esther Lilenthal, 3304 East Capital St., N.E., Ext. 6328

